

REMARKS

The Examiner objected to the drawings because figure 5 shows reference numeral "105". Red-lined amended figure 5 is herein submitted with this number crossed out. The Examiner also objected to the drawings for failure to include reference numbers "111" and "119" in the drawing. Reference numerals "111" and "119" have been removed from the specification. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that these objections be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected claims 15 and 19-24 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,575,815, issued to Slepian et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Slepian"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Examiner states that Slepian discloses a catheter for infusion of a crosslinking solution and references col. 3, lines 35-67. Nowhere in col. 3 is there any mention or disclosure of infusion of a crosslinking solution. Clarification of this reference is requested.

Slepian discloses a method for providing a polymeric coating on the inside of a blood vessel. In columns 5-6 Slepian discusses a number of different suitable polymeric materials. The basic requirements for the material are biocompatibility and the capacity to be applied in a fluent state and then chemically or physically reconfigured to yield a non-fluent state, see col.5, lines 1-8.

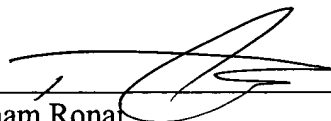
Slepian discloses use of amino containing polymer material that can be crosslinked by addition of covalent crosslinking agents such as glutaraldehyde, see col. 5, lines 41-50. Claim 15 requires injection of a crosslinking solution into the blood vessel such that it contacts the aneurysmal wall

of the blood vessel. In Slepian, the glutaraldehyde is applied to a polymer already applied (see col. 10, 48-51) to the blood vessel wall, and thus, never actually contacts the blood vessel. The glutaraldehyde is used to polymerize the coating so as to convert it or assure conversion of the coating to a non-fluent state. Furthermore, claim 15 has been amended to clarify that the cross-linking solution not only contacts the aneurysmal wall but also cross-links the wall. There is no discussion anywhere in Slepian of cross-linking the aneursymal wall itself. Claims 21 and 23 have also been amended to require that the crosslinking solution crosslink the aneursymal wall. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Abraham Ronai, Applicants' Attorney at 201-307-5350 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date


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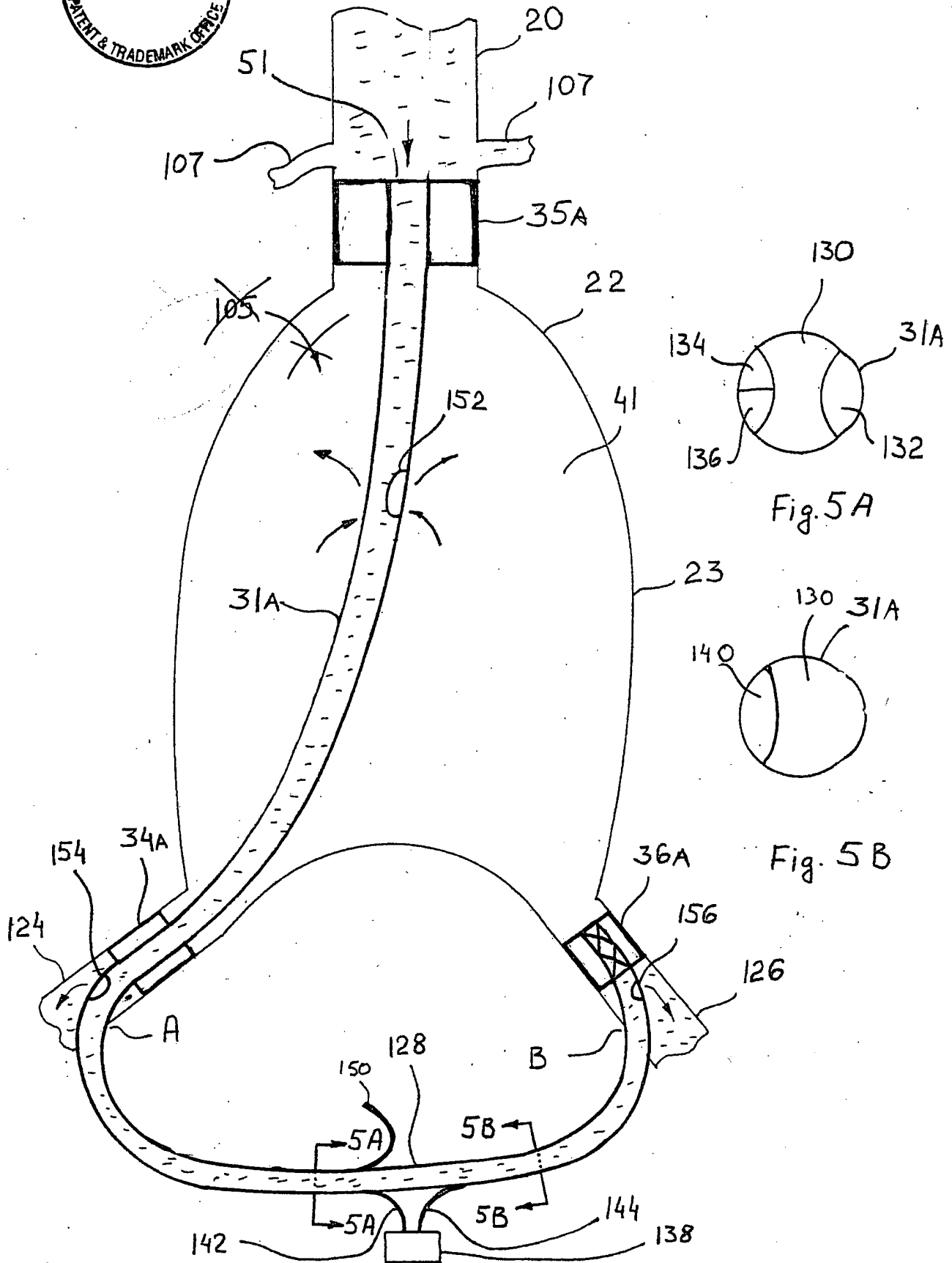


Fig. 5

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